

HONEY BADGER PROJECT
Rd.206 Flammulated Owl Search
Wildlife Project File W-008
July 5, 2018

On 7/3/18 the wildlife crew searched the area where a flammulated owl call was detected during a nocturnal calling survey conducted on 6/28/18. The owl calls were heard below the road at stations 4 and 5 (survey map can be found in the project file) along Rd.206. The search started at point 5 and finished back at the road a couple hundred yards east of point 4. During the search we evaluated habitat and looked for snags with potential to provide nest cavities. Several snags with cavities were checked for occupancy by thumping and scratching on the snag, no owls were detected. The habitat is a mix of potentially suitable dry forest with Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and larch, over ninebark, ocean-spray and snowberry; along with areas of moist forest and heavier canopied Grand fir, hemlock and cedar, generally in the draws. There are numerous snags present with signs of pileated woodpecker use, as well as holes from smaller woodpeckers. Overall the area searched below the road is a mix of potentially suitable and non-capable habitat. It's possible flammulated owls can find suitable conditions for a home range in the vicinity of these points. Above the road the habitat is more open, with mainly DF and PP. Much of the potential habitat is probably too open (<25% cc), especially above the road, after burning conducted with the Deerfoot project, however it is recovering well and should provide potentially suitable habitat in the near future. A follow-up survey should be conducted.

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